

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF MICHIGAN
SOUTHERN DIVISION

JEREMY ELLWOOD

Plaintiff,

v.

WINDHAM PROFESSIONALS, INC.

Defendant.

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Case No. _____

Jury Trial Demanded

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NATURE OF ACTION

1. This is an action brought under the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act (“FDCPA”), 15 U.S.C. § 1692 *et seq.*, and the Telephone Consumer Protection Act (“TCPA”), 47 U.S.C. § 227.

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

2. This Court has jurisdiction under 15 U.S.C. § 1692k(d), 47 U.S.C. § 227(b)(3), 28 U.S.C. § 1331, and 28 U.S.C. § 1367(a).

3. Venue is proper before this Court pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §1391(b), where the acts and transactions giving rise to Plaintiff's action occurred in this State and this district, where Plaintiff resides in this State and this district, and where Defendant transacts business in this State and this district.

PARTIES

4. Plaintiff, Jeremy Ellwood ("Plaintiff"), is a natural person who at all relevant times resided in the State of Michigan, County of Genesee, and City of Flint.

5. Plaintiff is a "consumer" as defined by 15 U.S.C. § 1692a(3).

6. Defendant, Windham Professionals, Inc. ("Defendant") is an entity who at all relevant times was engaged, by use of the mails and telephone, in the business of attempting to collect a "debt" from Plaintiff, as defined by 15 U.S.C. §1692a(5).

7. Defendant is a "debt collector" as defined by 15 U.S.C. § 1692a(6).

FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS

8. Plaintiff is a natural person obligated, or allegedly obligated, to pay a debt owed or due, or asserted to be owed or due a creditor other than Defendant.

9. Plaintiff's obligation, or alleged obligation, owed or due, or asserted to be owed or due a creditor other than Defendant, arises from a transaction in which the money, property, insurance, or services that are the subject of the transaction were incurred primarily for personal, family, or household purposes.

10. Defendant uses instrumentalities of interstate commerce or the mails in a

business the principal purpose of which is the collection of any debts, and/or regularly collects or attempts to collect, directly or indirectly, debts owed or due, or asserted to be owed or due another.

11. Within one (1) year preceding the date of this Complaint, Defendant made and/or placed a telephone call to Plaintiff's cellular telephone number, in effort to collect from Plaintiff an obligation, or alleged obligation, owed or due, or asserted to be owed or due a creditor other than Defendant.

12. Within one (1) year preceding the date of this Complaint, Defendant willfully and knowingly utilized an automatic telephone dialing system to make and/or place a telephone call to Plaintiff's cellular telephone number, in effort to collect from Plaintiff an obligation, or alleged obligation, owed or due, or asserted to be owed or due a creditor other than Defendant.

13. In connection with the collection of an alleged debt, Defendant, via its agent and/or employee "Albert," placed a call to Plaintiff's cellular telephone on April 13, 2011 at 1:45 P.M., and at such time, left a voicemail message in which Defendant used language the natural consequences of which was to abuse Plaintiff, including stating that Defendant is "going nowhere," that Plaintiff's "social security" number was tied to this matter, and that Plaintiff could take the easy route or the high route, but either way Defendant "will see results." (15 U.S.C. §§ 1692d(2)).

14. In connection with the collection of an alleged debt, Defendant, via its

agent and/or employee “Albert,” contacted Plaintiff via cellular telephone call on multiple occasions and in all such instances, left voicemail messages in which Defendant failed to disclose its true corporate or business name and further failed to notify Plaintiff that the communication was from a debt collector. (15 U.S.C. §§ 1692d(6), 1692e(11)).

15. Defendant placed non-emergency calls to Plaintiff’s cellular telephone, without the prior express consent of Plaintiff, using an automatic telephone dialing system, including, but not limited to, calls on April 11, 2011, April 13, 2011 at 1:45 P.M. and April 20, 2011 at 7:51 P.M. (47 U.S.C. 227(b)(1)(A)(iii)).

16. Defendant’s actions constitute conduct highly offensive to a reasonable person.

COUNT I

17. Plaintiff repeats and re-alleges each and every allegation contained above.

18. Defendant violated the FDCPA as detailed above.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff prays for relief and judgment, as follows:

- a) Adjudging that Defendant violated the FDCPA;
- b) Awarding Plaintiff statutory damages, pursuant to 15 U.S.C. §1692k, in the amount of \$1,000.00;
- c) Awarding Plaintiff actual damages, pursuant to 15 U.S.C. §1692k;
- d) Awarding Plaintiff reasonable attorneys’ fees and costs incurred in this action;

- e) Awarding Plaintiff any pre-judgment and post-judgment interest as may be allowed under the law;
- f) Awarding such other and further relief as the Court may deem just and proper.

COUNT II

19. Plaintiff repeats and re-alleges each and every allegation contained above.

20. Defendant violated 47 U.S.C. § 227(b)(1)(A)(iii) by willfully and knowingly utilizing an automatic telephone dialing system to make and/or place a telephone call to Plaintiff's cellular telephone number.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff prays for relief and judgment, as follows:

- a) Adjudging that Defendant violated 47 U.S.C. § 227(b)(1)(A)(iii);
- b) Awarding Plaintiff statutory damages, pursuant to 47 U.S.C. § 227(b)(3)(B), in the amount of \$500.00 per violation;
- c) Awarding Plaintiff statutory damages, pursuant to 47 U.S.C. § 227(b)(3)(C), in the amount of \$1,500.00 per violation;
- d) Awarding Plaintiff actual damages, pursuant to 47 U.S.C. § 227(b)(3)(B);
- e) Awarding Plaintiff reasonable attorneys' fees and costs incurred in this action;
- f) Awarding Plaintiff any pre-judgment and post-judgment interest as may be allowed under the law.

TRIAL BY JURY

21. Plaintiff is entitled to and hereby demands a trial by jury.

This 21st day of July, 2011.

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